

Serial No.: 10/010,965
Response dated 19 May 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed 19 March 2004

Docket No.: KCC-16,986

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region, the second material having a basis weight greater than a basis weight of the first material; and
at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the second material has a basis weight of at least about 20 gsm.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the first material has a basis weight of less than about 20 gsm.

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4. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the second material has a basis weight of at least about 30 gsm.

5. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the first material and the second material each has a basis weight of at least about 20 gsm.

6. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the first material and the second material each has a basis weight of about 30 gsm to about 60 gsm.

7. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the second material has a peak load grab tensile strength of about 8.5 lbs. to about 100 lbs.

8. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the first ear panel is passively bonded to the second ear panel by one of sonic welding, adhesive bonding, thermal bonding and combinations thereof.

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9. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the first material comprises a point bonded nonwoven material.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the second material comprises a laminate having at least one film layer positioned between two layers of polypropylene spunbond material.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein each passive bond has a peel strength of less than about 5000 grams.

12. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein each passive bond has a peel strength of about 1500 grams to about 3000 grams.

13. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article comprising:
an absorbent chassis including a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region which extends between the front waist region and the back waist region;
a first side panel operatively connected to the front waist region;

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a second side panel operatively connected to the back waist region; and
a seam connecting the first side panel and the second side panel,
wherein the second side panel has a basis weight greater than a basis
weight of the first side panel.

14. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the
second side panel has a basis weight greater than about 20 gsm.

15. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the
second side panel has a basis weight greater than about 30 gsm.

16. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the first
side panel has a basis weight less than about 20 gsm.

17. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the first
side panel has a basis weight less than about 30 gsm.

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18. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein each of the first side panel and the second side panel has a basis weight of about 15 gsm to about 150 gsm.

19. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein each of the first side panel and the second side panel has a basis weight of about 20 gsm to about 100 gsm.

20. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein each of the first side panel and the second side panel has a basis weight of about 30 gsm to about 60 gsm.

21. (Withdrawn) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the seam has a peel strength of at least about 100 grams to about 600 grams.

22. (Withdrawn) The prefastened absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the seam has a peel strength of at least about 200 grams to about 400 grams.

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23. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent chassis including a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region which extends between the front waist region and the back waist region;

a first side panel connected to the front waist region;

a second side panel connected to the back waist region; and

a passive bond connecting the first side panel to the second side panel to form a releasable side seam,

wherein the second side panel has a basis weight greater than a basis weight of the first side panel.

24. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the passive bond includes one of a thermal bond, an adhesive bond and an ultrasonic bond.

25. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the passive bond comprises at least one of discrete point bonds, dashed lines, continuous lines, discontinuous lines and combinations thereof.

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26. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the passive bond is one of circular, oval, rectangular, square and triangular.

27. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein a passive bond pattern comprises a plurality of ultrasonic point bonds, each having a surface diameter of about 0.010 inch to about 0.125 inch.

28. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein a passive bond pattern comprises a plurality of ultrasonic point bonds, each having a surface diameter of about 0.030 inch to about 0.118 inch.

29. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein a passive bond pattern comprises a plurality of ultrasonic point bonds, each having a height of about 0.015 inch to about 0.070 inch.

30. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein a passive bond pattern comprises a plurality of ultrasonic point bonds wherein each point bond has a height of about 0.030 inch to about 0.040 inch.

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31. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein a passive bond pattern comprises a plurality of ultrasonic point bonds, each having a height of about 0.035 inch.

32. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the passive bond forms a zig-zag bond pattern.

33. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the passive bond forms a generally curved bond pattern.

34. (Withdrawn) A convertible absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region; and

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at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together, wherein the passive bond has a peel strength of less than about 5000 grams.

35. (Withdrawn) The convertible absorbent article of Claim 34 further comprising a refastenable fastener connected to one of the first ear panel and the second ear panel.

36. (Withdrawn) The convertible absorbent article of Claim 34 wherein the passive bond has a peel strength of less than about 3000 grams.

37. (Withdrawn) The convertible absorbent article of Claim 34 wherein the passive bond has a peel strength of less than about 2500 grams.

38. (Withdrawn) The convertible absorbent article of Claim 34 wherein the passive bond has a peel strength of less than about 2000 grams.

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39. (Withdrawn) A convertible absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region;
a fastener connected to the second ear panel, the fastener not connected to the front waist region; and
at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together.

40. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region; and

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at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together,

wherein in disconnecting the first ear panel from the second ear panel, the first ear panel is damaged more than the second ear panel.

41. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising:

a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,

a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;

a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region; and

at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together,

wherein the passive bond can be torn without damaging the second ear panel more than the first ear panel.

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42. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region; and
at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together,
wherein the first ear panel can be disconnected from the second ear panel without negatively affecting a tensile strength of the second ear panel.

43. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising:
a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between the waist regions,
a first ear panel formed of a first material extending from a first edge portion of the front waist region;
a second ear panel formed of a second material different from the first material extending from a first edge portion of the back waist region; and

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at least one manually tearable passive bond connecting the first ear panel and the second ear panel together,

wherein the first ear panel can be disconnected from the second ear panel without negatively affecting a tensile strength of the first ear panel.